Namdroling Monastery (or, the Golden Temple or Padmasambhava Buddhist Vihara), Bylakuppe, Karnataka

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Info is given under following headings: Location, address, phone number...etc., how to get there, greatness of this temple, architecture, Main deity here and subdeities, daily poojas and rituals and their charges, special poojas, sevas and their charges, festivals, facilities for devotees such as accommodation etc,, donation info, bank acct numbers etc.., nearby Temples, nearby places of tourist interest, nearby budget hotels, .any other info...etc.

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Location, Address, Phone Number, etc.

The Namdroling Monastery (popularly known as the Golden Temple or Padmasambhava Buddhist Vihara) is a major Tibetan Buddhist monastery located in Bylakuppe, a Tibetan refugee settlement in Mysuru District, Karnataka.
It is often associated with nearby Kushalnagar (Coorg region) and Madikeri (about 34-40 km away), making it a popular destination in the Coorg tourism circuit.

Address: Namdroling Monastery, Arlikumari, P.O. Bylakuppe, Mysuru District, Karnataka - 571104.

Phone Number: +91 8228 254601 (general inquiries; also listed as 096635 66213 in some sources).

Website: https://www.namdroling.net/ (official site with history and updates).

How to Get There

By Road: Bylakuppe is on the Mysore-Madikeri highway (SH-88). From Kushalnagar (6 km), frequent local buses/autos. From Madikeri (34 km), taxis/buses via Kushalnagar. From Mysore (90 km) or Bengaluru (220 km), KSRTC buses available.

By Train: Nearest major station is Mysore Junction (90 km); taxis/buses from there.

By Air: Mysore Airport (limited flights) or Mangalore International Airport (IXE, 165 km); Bengaluru Airport for more options.

Best Time: Year-round; peak during Losar (Tibetan New Year, Feb/March) for vibrant celebrations.

Greatness of This Temple, History and Legends

Namdroling Monastery is the largest teaching center of the Nyingma lineage (ancient school) of Tibetan Buddhism in the world, home to over 5,000 monks and nuns.
Founded in 1963 by His Holiness Drubwang Padma Norbu Rinpoche (Penor Rinpoche, 1932-2009) after fleeing Tibet, it started humbly with a bamboo temple and has grown into a thriving spiritual and educational hub.

Significance: It preserves Tibetan Buddhist traditions in exile, with a junior high school, shedra (philosophy college), retreat center, hospital, and elderly home.

The "Golden Temple" (inaugurated 1999) features massive gold-plated statues, symbolizing enlightenment and peace.

It attracts pilgrims and tourists for its serene ambiance, chants, and cultural immersion, representing resilience of Tibetan heritage in India.

Architecture

The monastery showcases stunning Tibetan Buddhist architecture with vibrant colors, ornate murals depicting Buddhist deities, gods, demons, and life of Buddha.

The main Padmasambhava Vihara (Golden Temple) has a golden roof, intricate wall paintings, prayer wheels, flags, and three towering statues (40-60 ft high) of Guru Padmasambhava (center), Buddha Shakyamuni, and Amitayus.

Surrounding structures include Zangdog Palri Temple and educational buildings amid gardens.

Main Deity Here and Subdeities

Main Deities in Golden Temple:

Guru Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche, central 60-ft gold statue – founder of Nyingma).
Buddha Shakyamuni (left).

Buddha Amitayus (right).

Subdeities/Shrines: Various protective deities, bodhisattvas, and lineage figures in murals and smaller halls; Zangdog Palri Temple dedicated to Guru Rinpoche's paradise.

Daily Poojas and Rituals and Their Charges

Timings: 7:00 AM–6:00/8:00 PM (prayers around 1:00 PM and evenings).

Daily rituals include group chants, offerings, and meditations by monks/nuns. Visitors can observe/sit quietly (maintain silence, no photography inside during prayers). Entry free; no specific charges for rituals (open to public).

Special Poojas, Sevas and Their Charges

Special prayers/homams on request (e.g., for well-being). Donations voluntary; no fixed charges listed publicly.

Festivals

Losar (Tibetan New Year): Feb/March – 15 days of masked dances, rituals, music, and festivities.

Monlam Chenmo (Great Prayer Festival): Grand prayers.

Guru Rinpoche's Anniversary and other Nyingma observances with elaborate ceremonies.

Facilities for Devotees Such as Accommodation etc.

Guest House: Paljor Dhargey Ling Guest House (near entrance) – basic, clean rooms (book in advance; Protected Area Permit may be needed for overnight stay by foreigners).

Tibetan eateries/cafes for momos, thukpa, etc.

Shops for souvenirs, incense, books.

Donation Info, Bank Acct Numbers etc.

Donations support education, healthcare, and maintenance. Accepted via hundi, online (check official website), or direct to monastery office. No public bank details listed; contact via website/phone for guidance.

Nearby Temples

Other monasteries in Bylakuppe: Sera Je, Tashi Lhunpo, Sakya.
Nisargadhama (bamboo forest).

Nearby Places of Tourist Interest

- Cauvery Nisargadhama (island park, 7 km).
- Dubare Elephant Camp (elephant interaction, 10 km).
- Harangi Dam/Backwaters.
- Chiklihole Reservoir.
- Tibetan markets for handicrafts.

Nearby Budget Hotels

- Kushalnagar/Bylakuppe area (Rs. 1,000–3,000/night):
- Resorts/homestays near Kushalnagar (e.g., Coorg homestays).
- Basic lodges in Bylakuppe camps.

Any Other Info

Photography allowed outside; restricted/no flash inside temples.

Dress modestly; remove shoes in prayer halls.

Bylakuppe is a Protected Area (foreigners need PAP – free online via Indian govt portal). Serene, educational – experience Tibetan culture, food, and peace.

As of December 30, 2025, open normally; check for festivals.

🙏 May the blessings of Guru Padmasambhava bring peace, wisdom, and compassion to all visitors!

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Photos

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YouTube Videos

Namdroling Monastery (11 min):

https://youtu.be/BNMevlyTrEM?si=rCbHYpJpIY_Rquhk

Tibetan golden temple. Coorg (5 min):

https://youtu.be/KDgSvHRmpTA?si=qYji_zbhrpPu08Vb

Namdroling Monastery (6 min):

https://youtu.be/7HUP8-QjuRo?si=zZbqoPNbEIzjWrIa

Story of Tibetan settlements in Bylakuppe. Coorg (10 min):

https://youtu.be/hBD_eiTLRPM?si=5qwCw-aeeIFBsWcF

Bylakuppe golden temple rituals (27 min):

https://youtu.be/Pb-q8464DsQ?si=dCLB7_SlNtoB1wrZ

Namdroling Monastery (8 min):

https://youtu.be/iLdwC0ZP6DQ?si=mOFT-g_I-6htW36i

Bylakuppe golden temple (3 min):

https://youtu.be/elvc7IbuOQ0?si=2dbsb_kfdkkPthyF

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
December 30, 2025

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